ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Hopewell Old School

Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

UNION CHURCH, FAYETTE COUNTY, ALA.,

October 18th, 19th and 20th, 1889.

OFFICERS:

G. W. NORR, MODERATOR. L. M. WIMBERLEY, CLERK.

The next session of this Body will be held with Harmony Church, Four miles [illegible] ation, on the G. P. R. R., commencing on Friday before the 3rd Sunday in October, 1890.

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MINUTES

1. The introductory sermon was delivered by Elder N. Sanders, from 2nd Tim., 4th chap., and first clause of the 2nd verse; "Preach the word."

2. After an intermission of an hour, the delegates reassembled in the house, called the names of the churches and enrolled the delegates. (See Table.)

3. Elected G. W. Norris, Moderator, and L. M. Wimberley, Clerk.

4. Appointed committee of arrangement, viz: N. W. Eubank, J. C. Chandler, J. M. Smith, together with the Moderator and Clerk.

5. Appointed a committee on finance, viz: J. D. Crow and W. R. Brown.

6. Appointed a committee on preaching, viz: T. H. James, W. P. Williamson, I. A. Freeman, W. T. Nabers, W. M. Vice, T. J. Evans, G. W. Berry, J. D. Crow, E. Dodson, H. A. Brock and J. C. Chandler.

7. Appointed J. C. Nabors to write a letter of correspondence to sister Associations.

8. Called for correspondence, which was responded to as follows: From Pilgrim's Rest, a bundle of minutes by her messengers, Elder A. J. Coleman and brother Green Carver. From Lost Creek, a letter and minutes by her messengers, A. A. Williams, W. W. Wilson and Elder A. J. Gibson. From Buttahatchie, a letter and minutes by her messengers, Elder A. J. Egger, and brethren J. J. Wheeler, J. W. Reynolds and L. G. Pullen. From Five Mile Creek, messengers Elders N. Sanders, H. Barton and brother J. R. Sanders.

9. Opened the door of the Association for the reception of new churches.

10. Arranged union meetings as follows: 1st District, to convene with Nazareth church on Friday before the 2nd Sunday in July, 1890. 2nd District, with New River church on Friday before the 4th Sunday in September, 1890.

11. Adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Prayer by Elder J. C. Nabors.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19TH, 1889.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder R. F. Papisan. Called the roll and found a quorum present.

12. Called for the bill of arrangement, which was read and adopted, and the committee discharged.

13. Invited visiting brethren in the ministry of our order to seats with us.

14. Called on the preaching committee, who reported as follows: Elders A. J. Egger and J. M. Smith preach in the forenoon, and A. J. Coleman and R. B. McGue in the afternoon.

15. Read the Constitution, Articles of Faith and Rules of Decorum, of the Association.

16. Appointed correspondence to sister Associations, viz: To Pilgrims Rest, J. C. Nabors, R. F. Papisan, J D. Springer, J. P. Baines, I. A. Freeman, T. J. Evans and N. W. Eubank. To Buttahatchie, J. C. Chandler, A. T. Chandler, J. C. Smith, J. C. Nabers, L. M. Wimberley and E. Dodson. To Five Mile Creek, W. R. Brown, T. J. Evans, J. C. Smith, R. F. Papisan, W. A. Vice, David Moore, W. T. Nabors, T. M. McCool, L. M. Wimberley and G. W. Norris. To Little Hope. D. T. Moore, J. C. Nabors and R. F. Papisan. To Lost Creek, T. H. James, J. I. L. McMillion, J. F. Davis, W. R. Brown, J. P. Corbett, G. W. Norris, W. A. Vice, David Moore, M J. Abernathy, W. P. Williamson and G. W. Berry.

17. Agreed that the next session of this body be held with Harmony church, 4 miles east of Kennedy Station, on the G. P. R. R., on Friday before the 3rd Sunday in October, 1890.

18. Appointed L. M. Wimberly, Tresurer.

19. Called on the committee on finance to report, which reported, viz: Contributions this year. $19.50; in the hands of the Treasurer, 00.

20. Appointed the Clerk to supperintend the printing of the Minutes, and have 400 copies printed and distribute them to the churches by mail, after reserving a sufficient number for corresppondence.

21. Compensated the Clerk $8.00 for his services.

22. Requested the Moderator to tender the thanks of this body to the brethren and friends of this vicinity, for their kindness extended to us during our stay with them.

23. Called for the letter of correspondence, which was read, received and ordered annexed to the Minutes.

24. Appointed A. J. McWhirter, A. J. Gibson and G. W. Norris to preach on Sunday, who appeared in the order of their names and addressed a very large and at-

tentive audience, and we have reasons to hope that a copious crop of fruit will follow their labors. CLERK.

25. Opened the door for promiscuos business: 1st, Resolved, That the churches of this Association take into consideration the 2nd article under the head of promiscuous business of last year, and send up a report on the same to the next Association. 2nd, Agreed to have our Constitution, Articles of Faith, and Rules of Decorum printed in these Minutes. 3rd, Agreed to have a short article of reminesence of, and for, Elder T. J. Norris, printed herein, to be prepared by the Clerk.

26. Adjourned to the time and place of our next session.

G. W. NORRIS, Moderator.

L. M. WIMBERLEY, Clerk.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The Hopewell Old School Baptist Association, in her Fifth Annual Session, to the several Associations with whom she corresponds, sendeth Christian love and affections:

Very dear and beloved brethren in the Lord, we are now enjoying another peaceful and harmonious session, and everything pertaining to business is progressing smoothly, and, we hope, to the glory of God.

Dear Brethren: Your correspondence was gladly received, and we desire a continuance of the same. Pray for us, and the Isreal of God everywhere. Farewell,

G. W. NORRIS, Moderator.

L. M. WIMBERLEY, Clerk.

CONSTITUTION.

1. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union, who on producing letters certifying their appointment, shall be entitled to seats.

2. Letters from the different churches are to express their number in fellowship, those baptised, received by letter, dismissed, excommunicated or dead, since the last Association.

3. The members thus chosen and convened, shall be known as the HOPEWELL OLD SCHOOL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, who shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, or to infringe on any of the internal rights of the churches in our union, but shall merely be considered an advisory council in matters respecting their internal concerns, for the common benefit of all such churches; but the Association shall have power to exclude any church from the union who shall violate or deviate from the rules of the orthodox principles of the Gospel.

4. Every church in the union shall be entitled to three messengers, and should any church fail or neglect to represent herself, she shall state the reason of such failure in her next letter to the Association.

5. New churches may be admitted into the union, who shall petition by letter and messengers, and, upon examination, if found orthodox and orderly, shall be received, and the reception thereof manifested by the Moderator giving the right hand.

6. The Association, when convened, shall be governed by regular Rules of Decorum, which it is authorized to form for itself.

7. The Association shall appoint a Moderator from among its members, for the time being, whose duty it shall be to see that the Rules of Decorum be observed; and take the opinion of the Association on all questions properly brought before it; also, a Clerk shall be appointed, whose duty it shall be to take proper and correct minutes of their proceedings.

8. Every query sent by a particular church must be enclosed in her letter, certifying that she has endeavored to settle it, but could not; in which case the Association shall take it under consideration, and give its advice.

9. Queries which immediately concern the union or state of the churches at large, when sent by a particular church, as from them, or handed in by proper motion and seconded, shall be taken up and decided on as soon as opportunity will permit.

10. The Association shall have a fund for the support of the same, which shall be supplied by the voluntary contributions of the churches, whose duty it shall be to send it by the hands of her messengers, which moneys shall be deposited in the hands of the Treasurer, who shall be accountable to the Association for all moneys by him received.

11. The Clerk shall keep a file of the Minutes of each year's proceedings, which shall serve as a record for the Association.

12. The Association shall in all cases be governed by a majority of the members present.

13. The Association shall correspond with other Associations, as may be agreed on while in session.

14. The Association shall at her first session, appoint a committee, consisting of one from each church represented, (ministers excepted) whose duty it shall be to arrange preaching until the next Association is organized, and, if advised by the Association, shall appoint a brother to write a Circular Letter for the next year, which rule shall be observed at every session thereafter.

15. The Association shall endeavor to furnish the churches with Minutes of its proceedings.

16. Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any time two-thirds of the churches composing the Association may deem it necessary.

17. The Minutes of the Association shall be read, and corrected if necessary, signed by the Moderator and attested by the Clerk, before the Association rises.

18. Resolved, That we will not hold in our union any church or churches who hold in their fellowship any member or members who will not renounce every secret order or clan—political or religious—whether past, present, or to come, or that claims or expresses by word or act any interest therein, directly or indirectly, whether for oath or honor's sake, or personal interest or paternal advantage of such, whether at home or abroad, sick or well, in adversity, prosperity, or in any condition, or for any cause not herein mentioned; we must not, we cannot, we will not fellowship or commune with them.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

2. But one member shall speak at a time, and shall rise to his feet and address the Moderator.

3. No person shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject, or use words of personal reflection.

4. Every motion made and seconded, shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by the person making it, and if there are two or more motions before the Association at the same time, on the same subject, the first shall have the preference.

5. Every case taken up by the Association shall be disposed of before another is offered.

6. When anything is taken up by the Association, after allowing reasonable time for debates, the Moderator shall take the question, and those in favor of the thing proposed, shall rise to their feet, and those against it shall keep their seats. The decision thus made shall be announced immediately.

7. No person shall depart from the service of the Association without leave.

8. No person shall speak more than twice on the same subject without leave, nor shall any person be made to close the subject until the debates are gone through with.

9. The appellation of brother shall be used in addressing each other.

10. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same liberty of speech as any other member, provided he appoint some other member to the chair while speaking, but shall not vote unless the Association be equally divided.

11. Any person breaking the Rules of Decorum shall be reproved, as the Association may think proper.

ARTICLES OF FAITH, WITH SCRIPTURAL PROOFS.

1. We believe in one only true and living God: The Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost, and these three are one. Proof: "In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God; and the word was God." John 1:1. "For there are three that bear record in Heaven—the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost, and these three are one." 1st John 5:7.

2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice. Proof: "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man, but holy men of God, spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." 2nd Peter, 1:21. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." 2nd Tim., 3:16-17.

3. We belive in the doctrine of election by grace, according to the foreknowledge of God, and that God chose his people in Christ before the foundation of the world. Proof: "According as he hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love." Eph. 1:4. — "Moreover, whom He did predestinate, them He also called, and whom He called, them He also justified; and whom He justified, them He also glorified." Rom. 8:30.

4. We believe in the fall of man, and that he is incapable of recovering himself therefrom. Proof: "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him." John 6:44. "Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the Leopard his spots? then ye may also do good, that are accustomed to do evil." Jeremiah 13:23.

5. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, only by the imputed righteousness of Christ. Proof: "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who know no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." 2nd Cor. 5:21.

6. We believe that the saints shall persevere in grace, and never fall finally away. Proof: "And I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish." John 10:28. "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory." Col. 3:3-4.

8. We believe that God's elect shall be called and regenerated by the Holy Spirit. Proof: "For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." Acts 2:39. "Who hath saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose, and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began." 2nd Tim. 1:9.

8. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both the just and the unjust, and a general judgment, and that the joys of the righteous, and the punishment of the wicked, shall be eternal Proof: "Marvel not at this, for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice and shall come forth, they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." John 5:28. "Because He hath appointed a day in the which He will judge the world, by that man whom he hath ordained." Acts 17 31.

9. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only proper subjects, and that immersion in water is the only mode, and that

persons administering the ordinances, who differ from the foregoing, either in faith or practice, are by us, not regarded as legal — Proof: "Now, when all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the Heaven was opened and the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape, like a dove upon him, and a voice came from Heaven, which said: Thou art my beloved son: in thee I am well pleased. Luke 2:21–22. Jesus took bread and blessed and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said: Take, eat: this is my body: and he took the cup and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, drink ye all of it. Matt. 26:26–27.

10. We believe that no minister has the right to the administration of the ordinances only such as are regularly baptized, called and come under the imposition of the hands of a Presbytery. Proof: The Holy Ghost said: Separate me, Barnabas and Saul, for the work whereunto I have called them, and when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them they sent them away.— Acts 13:2–3. Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the Presbytery. 1st Tim. 4:14.

11. We believe that none but regularly baptized persons have a right to commune at the Lord's table, nor can we, as an Association, acknowledge as valid the administration of any other denomination, be their profession or mode what it may. Proof: We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat, which serve the tabernacle. Heb. 13:10. From the top of the rocks I see him, and from the hills I behold him: lo, the people shall dwell alone and shall not be reckoned among the nations.

SALUTATIONS OF ELDER T. J. NORRIS.

To the Elders and Messengers that compose the Hopewell Old School Baptist Association, and the brotherhood in Christ, everywhere—even to all—to whom these presents may come, grace unto you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ.

Very Dear and Beloved.—I can but give a faint disclosure of my feelings and heartfelt emotions toward you and that blessed cause, in the defense of which I have, if not deceived, been battling for about forty years,—not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual wickedness and the rulers of darkness of this world. And while my poor old physical frame is tottering and almost ready to capitulate with death, I feel to say, that I have no compromise to make with the enemies of truth; and while the outer man is perishing, the inner man is renewed day by day; and, if the indescribable sweetness of the Gospel that has attended me in the pulpit shall attend me in my final transit from this world, I am sure that death will have no terrors. So brethren, weep not for me when you stand o'er my grave. Think who has died, his beloved to save. Think of the crown all the ransomed shall wear.— When I am gone, I am gone! God bless you all.

Farewell. T. J. Norris.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES	PASTORS	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	Annual Meetings	Sabbath M.	Baptized.	Rec'd by L.	Dismissed.	Restored	Excluded	Dead	Total	Minute F.
1st District.												
Nazareth	T. J. Norris...	G. W. Norris, R. F. Papisan, W. P. Williamson,	Sept.	2	2	1	2	7	2	1	41	3 00
Pleasant Ridge	D. T. Moore.	M. J. Abernathy, T. H. James, T. J. Smith,	"	4	4		1			1	13	1 50
Zion	R. F. Papisan	J. D. Springer, I. A. Freeman, J. P. Baines	Aug.	3	3						21	2 00
Mt. Zion	J. C. Nabors	W. T. Nabors, J. F. Davis, F. M. McCool			1	5			1	1	13	1 50
Harmony	J. C. Nabors	J. C. Nabors, D. Moore, W. A. Vice,			4						23	1 50
Liberty Hill.	E. J. Gibson	W. R. Brown, T. J. Evans, J. I. L. McMillion.	Sept.	4	4	2	1	1	1		31	1 50
2nd Dist.												
Hopewell	J. M. Smith	J. M. Smith, Ira Pope, G. W. Berry	Aug.	3	3		6			1	38	2 00
New River.	G. W. Norris...	J. D. Crow, H. C. McCollum			4						12	1 00
Union	J. W. Brock	S. W. Lucas, E. Dodson, J. P. Corbett.			1			2			31	2 00
Little Hope	J. W. Brock	J. W. Brock, J. C. Smith, H. A. Brock			2		1	1			21	1 50
Emmans.	L. M. Wimberley.	L. M. Wimberley, J. C. Chandler, A. T. Chandler,	Aug.	4	4		1		1		36	2 00